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The Anglo-German Fatuity.

The more closely one comes into touch with things British and German on the other side of the water, the more amazed and perplexed one becomes at the attitude of suspicion and alarm which prevails between these two great neighboring peoples. Riding recently in the same compartment of a railway carriage from London to Harwich with three members of a well-to-do, intelligent English family, the writer was struck with the peculiar manner in which they spoke of "the invasion." It was not the probable or the possible invasion, but "the invasion," as if the whole thing were already arranged and waiting only for an auspicious moment.

And these intelligent English people gave every appearance of believing absolutely that it is only a question of time when England will be invaded by Germany. To the remark that there is no more danger of Germany attempting an invasion of England than of the "man in the moon" tumbling down at one's feet, they responded only by a look of blank amazement that any one should be so simple as to disbelieve in "the invasion."

Two days later, while struggling mentally with the psychology of "the invasion," the writer crossed from

Kiel, Germany, to Denmark. The harbor of Kiel was jammed with German warships,—more than thirty of them lying there, smoking and silent, except two or three on whose decks drills were being executed. The Emperor had been there a day or two before and held a great naval review. It was an exceedingly interesting though distressing sight to see this enormous display of fighting power, back of which as the creative motives lay ambition, and suspicion and dread of England and her great war fleets, whatever other motives Germans may allege. The most interested observer of the spectacle on our ship was an Englishman of sixty or more years. He paced nervously up and down the deck, leaned over the rail from time to time, and looked with great anxious eyes at these mighty engines of destruction. His ejaculations from time to time showed unmistakably that he felt as our train companions did, that all this accumulation of fighting craft was aimed directly at England, and that when Germany was ready "the invasion" would fall like a thunderbolt upon her shores.

As late as September 7 Lord Northcliffe, owner of the London *Times*, said in Winnipeg, Canada, that the great activity in the Krupp gun works, where one hundred thousand men are working day and night in war preparations, could mean nothing else than that Germany purposes to fight Great Britain in the near future, possibly, he said, as some think, in the year 1912. The *New York Times* of September 20 quotes a prominent pastor of the city as saying the day before that well-informed people in England, with whom he had recently talked, share the general dread of Germany. They have no doubt of Germany's intention ultimately to force a struggle for supremacy upon England.

The Germans, on their side, pretend that they cannot understand the feeling of suspicion and alarm prevailing in England. They declare that their own great and growing navy is solely for defense and for the protection of their commerce. But this is exactly what the British on their side say. But against whom should the Germans be preparing to defend their commerce if not against Great Britain, whose navy is the greatest, the most boastful in the world, and increasing by larger annual increment than any other? It is perfectly clear to intelligent outsiders that the swift development of the German war fleet, whatever else may be true of the German army, is due to the influence of the enormous naval increase

of Great Britain and the feeling toward Germany out of which this increase at the present time principally grows.

What can be done to change this deplorable state of things? The faster the fleets grow and the bigger they become, the tenser the strain of feeling between the two countries is becoming and the more uncertain seems the continuance of peace. That much is clear. It is clear also that if the rivalry continues there can in the end be but one outcome—a dreadful catastrophe that will paralyze the world. No escape from the situation can be found along the line of armaments. Increase by one means counter increase by the other. Neither will back down and acknowledge itself beaten. War, “grim visaged war,” is waiting for his glut at the end of this dark road.

Those in England and Germany who understand the situation and see what its result at no distant day must be,—and there are many such,—cannot move too swiftly in their efforts to deliver their countries from the impending calamity. In season and out of season they must utter their warning, until rulers and people alike come to their senses,—and when they come to their senses they will come together, and then an agreement will be quickly reached, in which the other maritime powers will hasten to join, which will deliver the North Sea and the English Channel from the awful nightmare now hovering in blackness of darkness over their shuddering waters. Will England do her duty and lead the way to this happy outcome, or will she hasten on down the way of the bottomless abyss where collapse and irretrievable ruin await her? Let her decide without delay.

The Postponement of the Peace Congress.

The postponement of the Peace Congress that was to have met at Stockholm on August 29 was a great disappointment in many ways, especially to the American delegates, all of whom were either on the other side of the water or on the way when the announcement came. But the Stockholm committee on organization reached the decision to postpone the Congress after the most careful study of the whole situation brought about by the great strike at the Swedish capital. They tried till the last moment to avoid postponement, but knowing that normal conditions could not be restored in time, and urged by a number of European workers, who feared that the attendance would be small, not to try to hold the meeting, they finally, on the 17th of August, announced by letter and wire their decision to postpone.

We have no doubt that the committee acted conscientiously according to their best light, and we have no disposition to criticise them, though we still think that, all things considered, the Congress might well

have been successfully held. None were more disappointed, however, than the members of the Stockholm committee. They had expended much labor and money in preparations, and their natural desire was to go on. But feeling that the Congress might be small, and that they would be unable properly to take care of the delegates, they with reluctance gave up the meeting.

Under the circumstances the committee express a strong desire that the Congress of next year be held in Stockholm. This desire certainly ought to be granted, as we have no doubt it will be, by the International Peace Bureau, which has the general charge of the organization of the peace congresses. The Swedish and other Scandinavian workers certainly deserve to have the next Congress, considering all that they have done for the cause and the large expense and trouble that they have been put to on this occasion.

The chief cause for regret that the Congress had to be postponed is that what promised to be an unusual opportunity was thus lost for the peace party of the nations again to impress upon the intelligence and conscience of the world the great constructive measures which they are urging for the final establishment and assurance of a régime of peace and justice among the nations, and to utter once more, with all the weight of their united authority and judgment, their protest against the current senseless and ruinous rivalry in armaments. The last three or four international peace congresses and the recent national congresses and special conferences, like that at Lake Mohonk, have done extremely effective service in this direction. But their work needs immediate enlargement and strengthening. The present is a most strategic moment. The peace movement has made remarkable progress within a few years. Some of its ideals are already in considerable measure realized, and it is of the utmost importance that there be no break in the effort to secure their complete triumph. Again, the sentiment of the people in practically all countries in support of the world-peace program and in opposition to the further growth of competitive arming is larger and stronger than ever before. But it is still in many places timid and halting. It needs stimulating and concentrating. For these reasons the Peace Congress would have had a rare opportunity at Stockholm to further the great aims of the peace cause.

Furthermore, the supporters of the old régime of narrow, egoistic nationalism, with its reliance on brute force and organized violence, were never more aggressive than at the present time. They have so far succeeded in keeping the old militaristic policies largely in force and have prevented the full realization of the new order of justice, trust and peace. It is to be regretted, therefore, that the friends of peace could not once more this year have voiced their demands